

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-11 IO-14

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USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 4886

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SEPTEMBER 10 WG DISCUSSION OF U.S. CHANGES IN
PAPER ON IMPLICATIONS OF REVISED DATA IN RELATION TO GROUND FORCE
DEFINITION

REF: A) STATE 192086; B) USNATO 4628; C) STATE 187254; D) USNATO 4452
E) STATE 187599

SUMMARY: AT SEPTEMBER 10 MEETING, WG ACCEPTED ALL CHANGES U.S.
PROPOSED IN SUBJECT PAPER (REF A), WITH THE EXCEPTION OF POINTS
LISTED IN PARAS 1-5. BELOW. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS IF
POSSIBLE BY SEPTEMBER 12 SPC MEETING. END SUMMARY

1. PRINCIPAL ISSUE WAS U.S. PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THROUGHOUT PAPER "THE
AGREED MAXIMUM OF 10 PERCENT" WITH RESPECT TO NATO REDUCTIONS TO "THE
AGREED OBJECTIVE OF A MAXIMUM OF APPROXIMATELY 10 PERCENT." FRG REP
(DZIALS) SAID BONN BELIEVED THAT ON BOTH SUBSTANTIVE AND PROCEDURAL
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GROUNDWG SHOULD NOT DEVIATE IN THIS PAPER FROM THE UNEQUIVOCAL
COMMITMENT TO A MAXIMUM OF 10 PERCENT SPECIFIED IN C-M(73)83.
IN THIS REGARD, BONN COULD NOT ACCEPT DELETION OF WORD "FIRM"
BEFORE WORD "CRITERION" IN SECOND SENTENCE OF PARA 23. BELGIAN

REP (WILLOT) SUPPORTED FRG POSITION. HE SAID THAT IN C-M(73)83 MAXIMUM OF 10 PERCENT WAS A REQUIREMENT, NOT AN OBJECTIVE, AND THAT IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO START USING WORD "APPROXIMATELY". HE THOUGHT PRESENT WORDING MIGHT ACCOMMODATE A FUTURE VARIATION TO, SAY, 10.4 PERCENT, BUT "APPROXIMATELY" COULD IMPLY A READINESS TO ACCEPT REDUCTIONS UP TO 14 OR 15 PERCENT. WILLOT SAID SPC OR NAC, AND NOT WG, WAS PLACE TO DISCUSS ANY SUCH MOVE. CANADIAN REP (BECKETT) BELIEVED U.S. CHANGE WOULD MODIFY C-M(73)83 AND SUPPORTED, MORE ON PROCEDURAL THAN SUBSTANTIVE GROUNDS, STICKING TO PRESENT LANGUAGE IN PAPER. SHAPE REP (PLUMMER) OBJECTED TO U.S. CHANGE. UK REP (ABRAHAMS) EXPRESSED MILD PREFERENCE FOR PRESENT LANGUAGE.

2. CHAIRMAN (SMITH), SPEAKING FOR MILITARY COMMITTEE, SAID HE BELIEVED MC WOULD HAVE TO RESERVE MILITARY POSITION ON U.S. PROPOSAL WHICH SEEMED TO ERODE AGREEMENT IN C-M(73)83. U.S. REP ARGUED IN FAVOR OF CHANGE NOTING THAT INTENTION (PARA E REF A) WAS TO BETTER REFLECT WORDING OF C-M(73)83. SMITH SAID U.S. APPEARED TO HAVE FOCUSED ON PARA 12 RATHER THAN PARA 24 OF C-M(73)83. LATTER SET FORTH ALLIED POSITION AND, HE ARGUED, WORD "OBJECTIVE" IN THAT PARA REFERRED TO "APPROXIMATE PARITY" RATHER THAN "MAXIMUM 10 PERCENT REDUCTION"; PARA 12 WAS AN ELABORATION IN WHICH "APPROXIMATELY 10 PERCENT" REFERRED TO REDUCTIONS IN TOTAL STATIONED OR IN TOTAL INDIGENOUS MANPOWER. SMITH HOPED U.S. COULD ACCEDE TO DESIRE OF OTHER WG MEMBERS TO RETAIN PRESENT LANGUAGE OF DRAFT.

3. COMMENT: OUR REMARK AT PREVIOUS WG MEETING THAT OUR ACCEPTANCE OF SECTIONS OF WG PAPER ON IMPLICATIONS OF REVISED ALLIED DATA WAS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO POSSIBLE FUTURE ACCEPTABILITY OF 700,000 MAN CEILING EVEN IF IT INVOLVES REDUCTIONS SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN 10 PERCENT (REF E) MAY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO EMPHASIS ON THIS ISSUE IN SEPTEMBER 10 MEETING. STAFF GROUP APPEARS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WITH "EROSION" OF 10 PERCENT. END COMMENT

4. THE FOLLOWING ARE ADDITIONAL MODIFICATIONS TO U.S. CHANGES AND OTHER ALTERNATIONS THAT WG MEMBERS DESIRE:
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A. LAST SENTENCE PARA 12 (LAST CHANGE PARA F REF A): SHAPE REP DESIRED RETAIN WORD "WOULD" WHICH HE BELIEVED WAS SUBSTANTIATED BY A 1971 SHAPE STUDY. BELGIAN REP SUPPORTED RETAINING "WOULD" BUT SUGGESTED INSERTING WORDS "BY ITSELF" BEFORE WORD "COMPENSATE".

B. THIRD SENTENCE PARA 16 E (PARA K REF A): UK AND CANADIAN REPS DESIRED RETAIN CONCLUDING PHRASE, MODIFYING IT TO READ "WHICH COULD BE AS HIGH AS 10 PERCENT" AS A VERY ROUGH INDICATION OF POSSIBLE ERROR IN ASSESSMENTS.

C. THIRD SENTENCE PARA 18: UK REP DESIRED CHANGE PHRASE "THE WP REGARD THEM AS" TO "THE WP MAY REGARD SOME OF THEM AS".

D. SECOND SENTENCE PARA 21 (PARA Q REF A): UK REP SAID UK THUNDERBIRD REGIMENT WOULD REMAIN UNDER UK COMMAND IN WARTIME AND BELIEVED U.S. ADDITION WAS INCORRECT.

E. LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 32: BELGIAN REP PROPOSED DELETING PHRASE "IN THE TERMS THAT THE NAME WERE TO BE USED AS" AND INSERTING BEFOREWORD "COVER" PHRASE "SUCH AS THE USE OF AIR DEFENSE TROOPS TO".

F. LAST SENTENCE PARA 33 A: BELGIAN REP PROPOSED AND OTHER REPS SUPPORTED CHANGING END OF SENTENCE AFTER WORDS "PROVIDED THAT" TO READ "THE MANPOWER FIGURES EVENTUALLY ADVANCED BY THE WP FOR WP GROUND MANPOWER AND AREA AIR DEFENSE AND ARMY AVIATION ELEMENTS ARE ACCEPTABLE TO NATO."

G. THIRD SENTENCE PARA 33 B:(PARA AA REF A): WG ACCEPTED DELETION OF PHRASE "INTEGRAL TO THE ARMIES" BUT UK REP WANTED TO INSERT WORD "ARMY" BEFORE WORD "PERSONNEL".

H. LAST SENTENCE PARA 33 C (PARA BB REF A): FRG REP SAID BONN INSISTS PRESENT LANGUAGE BE RETAINED SINCE DISPARITY PARTICULARLY IN EQUIPMENT IS REAL AND WOULD REMAIN UNTOUCHED; U.S. CHANGES IN THIS SENTENCE THUS UNACCEPTABLE. BELGIAN AND CANDIAN REPS SUPPORTED FRG POSITION, BUT PROPOSED ADDING TO END OF SENTENCE AFTER WORD "UNTOUCHED" PHRASE "BECAUSE OF THE LOWER MANPOWER REDUCTIONS THAT WOULD BE REQUIRED OF THE PACT".

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I. LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 33 E (PARA DD REF A): FRG AND CANADIAN REPS OBJECTED OT U.S. CHANGE ON GROUNDS THAT EMPHASIS ON WHAT WAS "MILITARILY" UNACCEPTABLE AND C-M(73)83 JUSTIFIED PRESENT LANGUAGE. NUMBER OF REPS SUPPORTED BELGIAN REP'S PROPOSAL THAT SENTENCE READ "THE CONCEPT WOULD HOWEVER INVOLVE NATO IN A MILITARILY UNACCEPTABLE MAGNITUDE OF REDUCTIONS WERE THE COMMON CEILING TO BE REALIZED AT THE LEVEL (ABOUT 700,000) WHICH HAS BEEN ADOPTED AS AN ILLUSTRATIVE TARGET." SENTENCE "THIS IS SUBJECT TO FURTHER STUDY" WOULD NOT BE ADDED.

J. PARA 33 H: NUMBER OF REPS SUPPORTED BELGIAN PROPOSAL TO ADD AT END OF PARA SENTENCE "IT WOULD HOWEVER BE MORE DIFFICULT TO DO THIS FOR CASE 2 THAN FOR OTHER CASES."

5. WITH ACCEPTANCE OF U.S. CHANGES STAFF GROUP BELIEED ITS FOOTNOTE TO CZ AND POLISH NATIONAL AIR DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS (PARA 2 REF B) SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED. IN RESPONSE TO U.S. OBSERVATION PARA D REF A, STAFF GROUP PROPOSES TO CHANGE SECOND SENTENCE IN PARA 10 OF PAPER TO READ "HOWEVER, TO REACH A CEILING OF 700,000, THE WP WOULD HAVE TO REDUCE 224,000, IF AHG FIGURES ARE USED AS SHOWN IN PARA 6 FOR CASE 1. THIS COMPARES TO 225,000 WHICH THE WP WOULD HAVE TO REDUCE IF NATO OCTOBER 73 FIGURES ARE USED AS SHOWN IN PARA 6 FOR THE

EXISTING CONCEPT." AS TO PARA C REF A, ONE LINE "MANPOWER FIGURES AS OF OCTOBER 1973 AND AS OF MID 1974. IT SHOULD BE BORNE" WAS DROPPED IN TRANSMISSION AFTER "WP" AND BEFORE "IN MIND".

6. IN CONCLUDING DISCUSSION, OTHER WG REPS ACCEPTED A PAPER WITH ALL U.S. CHANGES (REF A) EXCEPT AS NOTED IN PARAS 1-4 ABOVE. CHAIRMAN AND OTHER REPS HOPED U.S. COULD APPROVE TRANSMITTING PAPER WITH CHANGES NOTED ABOVE TO SPC. U.S. REP DECLINED IN LIGHT OF PARA 1 REF A TO ACCEPT PAPER AND REFERENDUM BUT SAID HE WOULD REPORT WG'S STRONG INTEREST IN SENDING PAPER PROMPTLY TO SPC. IS REP ANTICIPATED REQUEST BY SPC AT ITS SEPTEMBER 12 MEETING FOR REPORT ON STATUS OF PAPER. NEXT WG MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 24.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON'S COMMENTS, IF POSSIBLE BEFORE SEPTEMBER 12 SPC.
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